Request for supply of foodgrains to Public Distribution System in Tripura

1228. SHRI M. A. BABY: Will the Minister of CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether any special request from the State of Tripura has been received for urgent supply of foodgrains for sustaining the Public Distribution System; and

(b) if so, the steps beings taken by Government to meet the demand?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Normal allocations of wheat and rice are 1800 tons and 16200 tons per month respectively. Bulk allocations of foodgrains are made to States/UTs including Tripura taking into account, the stocks in Central Pool, procurement made, inter-se lequirements of States/UTs and seasonal factors. Allocations of foodgrains through PDS are supplemental in nature and are not intended to meet the total requirement of any State. Normal allocation has not been increased.

Powers and functions of members of District consumer fora

1229. SHRI S. S. SURJEWALA: Will the Minister of CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) what are the guidelines and method of appointment of the members of the district consumer fora in the country;

(b) whether the facilities regarding T.A., D.A., etc are being provided to the members of district consumer fora;

(c) whether it is a fact that the members of the district consumers fora have no powers to inspect the files, records of the case, and in taking final decisions on the matters;

(d) whether it is also a fact that all the functions and powers of the district consumer Fora are being exercised solely by the Presiding Officers; and

(e) if so, whether Government propose to consider the delegation of powers and facilities to the members of the district consumer fora and also lay down clear cut rules and guidelines for the collective functioning of these Fora?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED): (a) Under the provisions of the Consumer Protection (Amendment) Act, 1993, every appointment in the District Forum shall be made by the State Government on the recommendations of the Selection Committee consisting of the following, namely—

(i) The President of the State Commission—Chairman.

(ii) Secretary, Law Department of the State—Member.

(iii) Secretary incharge of the Department dealing with consumer affairs in the State—Member.

Under the provisions of the Amended Act, each District Forum shall consist of—

(a) a person who is, or has been, or is qualified to be a District Judge, who shall be its President;

(b) Two other members, who shall be persons of ability, integrity and standing and have adequate knowledge or experience of, or have shown capacity in dealing with, problems relating to economics, law, commerce, accountancy, industry, public affairs or administration, one of whom shall be a woman;

(b) The facilities regarding TA, DA etc. have been prescribed in the consumer protection rules framed by the State Governments under the Consumer Protection Act,

1986. Generally, the President and Members of the District Fora are entitled for such travelling allowance and daily allowances on official tour as are admissible to Group A officers of the State Government.

(c) Under the provisions of the Consumer Protection Rules, 1987, the District Forum shall have power to require any person to produce before, and allow to be examined or kept by an officer of the District Forum, such books, accounts documents etc. in his custody, if examination of such books, accounts, documents are required for the purposes of the Act.

(d) and (e) Under the provisions of the Consumer Protection Act, 1986, the District Forum consists of three members including the President and its decisions are decisions of the majority. As such, the question of exercising all the functions and powers solely by the President does not arise.

National Service Scheme for consumer movement

1230. SHRI MENTAY PADMANABHAM : Will the Minister of CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state :

(i) whether Government are considering a proposal to induct National Service Scheme Coordinators from educational institutions to lead the consumer movement ;

(b) whether it is a fact that the Consumer movement is lagging behind due to lack of public participation ;

(c) whether there is a demand for Government funds to train people to participate effectively in the consumer movement; and

(d) if so, the reaction of Government to make funds available to train people through the Bureau of Indian Standards, Department of Weights and Measures and various other institutions ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED): (a) No, Sir.

(b) The consumer movement is still in its infancy in the country. However, as a result of number of measures taken by the Government and a few consumer organisations, an alert consumer is emerging on the scene who is aware of his rights as a consumer.

(c) and (d) At present, Government is conducting training programmes for various sections of the society with the help of well known training institutions such as IIPA, New Delhi, NIRD, Hyderabad and State Level training institutions. For this purpose, funds are placed at their disposal. Such training programmes are being conducted for voluntary consumer organisations, state government officials and non-judicial members of the redressal agencies set up usder the Consumer Protections Act, 1986.

Acute shortage of essential commodities in Assam

1231. SHRI TARA CHARAN MAJUMDAR : Will the Minister of CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that there is an acute shortage of essential items in the State of Assam and the people are being harassed ;

(b) if so, whether the State Government has approached the Central Government for extra supply of essential items in the State ; and

(c) if so, what action has been taken by Government in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION AND THE MINISTER OF